



24 August 2022

Advisory on Essential Aid Distribution Amid COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

It has been two months since we last rationalised our Safe Management Measures (SMMs). Thanks to everyone's efforts, we weathered the Omicron BA.5 subvariant wave without additional domestic or travel restrictions. Infection numbers in the community have steadily declined across all age groups since late July, and the week-on-week infection ratio has fallen below 0.7. As of 23 August 2022, average daily infections over a 7-day period fell to 2,700, down from a peak of 10,200 in mid-July. More importantly, the number of daily hospitalized cases has halved from more than 800 at its recent peak in July to below 400 today, and the number of ICU cases has fallen to below 10.

2. As this wave passes, our population has become more COVID-resilient, due to high vaccination and boosting rates and safe recovery from infections. We are now able to take another step towards living with COVID-19. **The last version of the Advisory dated 25 April 2022 will cease effect from 29 Aug 2022.** As SMMs have largely been lifted apart from in specific settings, there will no longer be SMMs specific to essential aid distribution.

3. We thank community partners for your efforts in essential aid distribution and encourage partners to continue exercising caution especially in interacting with vulnerable persons. Staff and volunteers involved in essential aid distribution should continue to adhere to any prevailing national SMMs unless otherwise advised.

4. SSAs and community groups that require any assistance or clarifications can contact NCSS at NCSS_Membership@ncss.gov.sg.